



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

CW

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,148	02/15/2002	Michael J. Sullivan	P-5474-D1-C1-C1	5579

24492 7590 06/11/2003

THE TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY  
425 MEADOW STREET  
PO BOX 901  
CHICOPEE, MA 01021-0901

EXAMINER

GORDON, RAEANN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EC

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,148

Applicant(s)

SULLIVAN ET AL.

Examiner

Raeann Gorden

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2-15-02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-42, 44-49 and 51-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-42, 44-49 and 51-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 38-42, 44-49 and 51-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamagishi et al (5,779,563) In view of Sullivan et al (5,368, 304). Regarding claim 38, Yamagishi discloses a golf ball comprising a solid core, an inner cover layer and an outer cover layer (abstract). The inner cover layer is made from Himilan, a well-known trade name for ionomer resins (table 4, col 9). The outer cover layer is made from polyurethane and has a Shore D hardness from 40 to 68 (col 4, lines 5-16; table 2). Yamagishi does not disclose the PGA compression of the core. However, Sullivan teaches a core with a PGA compression between 45 and 85 (col 5, line 23). Regarding claim 40, Yamagishi discloses the ball has a diameter of 42.7 mm or 1.68 inches (table 4). Regarding claim 42, the outer cover layer has a Shore D hardness from 40 to 68 (col 4, line 7). Regarding claims 44 and 45, the outer cover layer has a thickness from 0.3 to 2.5 mm or 0.01 to 0.098 inch (col 4, lines 35-37). Regarding claim 47, the solid core is made from a polybutadiene (col 3, lines 2-7). The outer cover layer is made from polyurethane and has a Shore D hardness from 40 to 68 (col 4, lines 5-16). Regarding claims 51 and 52, the outer cover layer has a thickness from 0.3 to 2.5 mm

Art Unit: 3711

or 0.01 to 0.098 inch (col 4, lines 35-37). Regarding claim 53, the solid core is made from a polybutadiene (col 3, lines 2-7). The inner cover layer is made from Himilan, a well-known trade name for ionomer resins (table 4, col 9). The outer cover layer is made from polyurethane and has a Shore D hardness from 40 to 68 (col 4, lines 5-16).

Regarding claim 55, the ball has a diameter of 42.7 mm or 1.68 inches (table 4).

Regarding claims 39, 41, 48, 54, and 56 applicant claims PGA compression and coefficient of restitution; the properties are obvious over Yamagishi. Yamagishi discloses a solid golf ball comprising a polybutadiene core, an ionomeric inner cover, and a polyurethane outer cover. Applicant claims the same materials disclosed by Yamagishi for each layer. Furthermore, although Yamagishi is silent to the properties one skilled in the golf ball art is aware that golf ball commonly have a PGA compression between 70 and 100. Golf balls outside this range are usually discarded. Golf balls with a very low PGA compression are too soft for use and golf ball with a very high PGA compression are too hard. The coefficient of restitution (COR) also has a common range in the golfing art between 0.7 and 0.8. Golf balls do not have low COR values because the collision between the ball and club would not be satisfactory and would not give the ball proper initial velocity. In regards to claims 46, 49, and 57, Yamagishi in view of Sullivan discloses applicant invention therefore the performance features such as mechanical impedance will also be the same as applicant's. One of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Yamagishi in view of Sullivan to achieve the optimal initial velocity and spin of the golf ball.

***Response to Arguments***

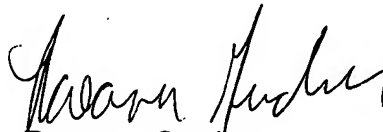
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-42, 44-49, and 51-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raeann Gorden whose telephone number is 703-308-8354. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell can be reached on 703-308-2126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

  
Raeann Gorden  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3711

Rg  
June 5, 2003